

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth;

a first wall extending from the flat surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the flat surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface and wherein the first wall and the second wall define a width of the occlusal surface wherein the width increases from a first portion of the base which contacts a front of the mouth to a second portion which extends further rearward in the mouth.

2. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the first portion contacts an incisor type of tooth.

3. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the second portion contacts a canine type of tooth.

4. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the interior surface wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth of the user.

5. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a moisture-absorbent material.

6. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the

first material is softer than the second material.

7. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:
suction cups formed with the base.

8. (Original) A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth wherein one of the types of teeth is canine teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface which contacts the teeth when the base is worn; and

wedges formed within the occlusal surface wherein each of the wedges form an apex which extends toward a canine tooth and contacts the canine tooth to move the canine tooth to prevent malocclusion within the mouth.

9. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:
a second base attached to the U-shaped base wherein the second base has an occlusal surface.

10. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:
one or more sockets wherein the sockets are shaped to receive a second type of teeth wherein the type is not canine teeth.

11. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 8 wherein the base is thicker in an area which contacts a first type of teeth than a second area that contacts a second type of teeth.

12. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:
a wire embedded within the base.

13. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 8 wherein the base is

sized to contact only one tooth.

14. (Original) A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base;

sockets within the base; and

a suction cup extending from the base wherein the suction cup has a concave surface which contacts the mouth and adheres to the mouth to prevent movement of the base when the base is worn in the mouth.

15. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the suction cup is removably attached to the base.

16. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the sockets are preformed.

17. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the sockets are customized.

18. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 14 further comprising:

wedges formed on the base wherein the wedges contact the teeth of the user.

19. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the sockets are flat.

20. (Original) The dental appliance of Claim 14 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner has a surface which

contacts the mouth to prevent the base from moving within the mouth.

21. (New) Dental appliances worn consecutively by a user to treat a malocclusion, the dental appliances comprising:

a first device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user; and

a second device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user and wherein the second device is sized larger than the first device.

22. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is sized to treat a first type of dentition and the second device is sized to treat a second type of dentition wherein the first type of dentition and the second type of dentition are different.

23. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is preformed.

24. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is customized.

25. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is created from stereolithography.

26. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is created from a digital model.

27. (New) Dental appliances worn consecutively by a user to treat a malocclusion as a dentition of the user changes, the dental appliances comprising:

a first device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user wherein the first device is sized to treat a first type of dentition; and

a second device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts teeth of the user wherein the second device is sized to treat a second type of dentition wherein the first type of dentition and the second type of dentition are different.

28. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a deciduous dentition.

29. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a mixed dentition.

30. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a permanent dentition.

31. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the occlusal surface of the first device has at least one socket.

32. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first device is preformed.

33. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first device is customized.

34. (New) The dental appliances of Claim 27 further comprising:
a wire embedded within the first device.

35. (New) A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth;

a first wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface and wherein the first wall and the second wall define a width of the occlusal surface; and

a wire embedded within the base wherein the wire extends from a top surface of the second wall and contacts the teeth.

36. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a first socket within the occlusal surface having a first size; and

a second socket within the occlusal surface having a second size wherein the first size and the second size are different.

37. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a labial shield extending from the second wall wherein the labial shield covers the teeth.

38. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the first wall wherein the lingual tabs extend into the mouth.

39. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.
40. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:
suction cups extending from the occlusal surface.
41. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:
a reline material on the occlusal surface.
42. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.
43. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:
a vertical slit on the exterior surface.
44. (New) A dental appliance worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:
a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth; and
at least one socket within the occlusal surface wherein the socket is shaped based on anatomical standards for teeth.
45. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the socket is sized to receive two or more teeth.
46. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the socket is sized to receive one tooth.
47. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:
lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn.

48. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the flat occlusal surface is sized to receive two or more teeth.

49. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:
a wire embedded within the base.

50. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:
a liner on the base wherein the liner causes adhesion between the base and the teeth.

51. (New) The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:
a labial shield extending from the second wall wherein the labial shield covers the teeth.

52. (New) A method for diagnosing an orthodontic condition of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing analysis means for the patient to analyze a position of one or more teeth within a mouth of the patient; and

displaying a tooth arrangement to which the patient compares the position of the one or more teeth.

53. (New) The method of Claim 52 further comprising the step of:

distributing a dental appliance to the patient after the patient compares the position of the one or more teeth.

54. (New) The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a ruler.

55. (New) The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a mirror.

56. (New) The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a

packaging displaying an image of teeth.

57. (New) The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a camera.